

Narragansett Police Department

40 Caswell Street, Narragansett, RI 02882

EFFECTIVE
August 10, 2012

LAST REVIEW
March 10, 2020

SCHEDULED REVIEW
March 10, 2023

Policy 310.08

PATROL RIFLE

01 Purpose

This policy will cover topics relating to training, deployment, ammunition, maintenance and transport of assigned patrol rifles.

02 Policy

It is the policy of the Narragansett Police Department to make patrol rifles available to qualified patrol officers in order to more effectively and accurately address the increasing level of fire power and body armor utilized by criminal suspects.

03 Definitions

Patrol Rifle: is an authorized weapon, which is issued by the police department or personally owned by a sworn member of the department and which is made available to properly trained and qualified officers as a supplemental resource to their duty handgun or shotgun. No personally owned rifles may be carried for patrol duty unless pre-approved in writing by the Chief of Police.

04 Procedures

A. Patrol Rifles may be deployed by qualified officers to:

1. Provide a more immediate tactical response to calls involving armed and/or violent offenders.
2. Increase citizen and officer safety at high-risk incidents.
3. Provide for more accurate and controlled shot placement, if necessary.
4. The patrol rifle may be used to assist any tactical unit with perimeter/containment.
5. Officers may also be required to act as a hasty assault force in order to stop an immediate threat of death or serious bodily injury.

B. Only rifles approved by the Chief of Police or the department issued patrol rifle may be deployed.

1. The rifle issued by the department is: **Make:** Colt
Model: Carbine/Semi Auto
Caliber: .223/556

C. Discharge of the Patrol Rifle

1. The discharge of the patrol rifle shall be governed by Narragansett Police Department Policy, 300.01 entitled Use of Force.

D. Patrol Rifle Training and Qualification

1. Officers authorized to deploy Patrol Rifles will be trained in the operation by a qualified patrol rifle instructor.
2. Selected officers must successfully complete the department Patrol Rifle Course prior to being allowed to deploy the rifle in tactical situations.
3. Each officer who is trained in Patrol Rifle deployment shall receive in-service rifle training by the firearms division or a certified Patrol Rifle instructor. He/she shall qualify at least once a year with the rifle.
4. Records relative to qualification with Patrol Rifles are to be maintained by the firearms training division. Successful completion for qualification includes an 85% or higher on the qualification course.
5. In the event that an officer is not able to satisfactorily pass a qualification session, the Patrol Rifle instructor conducting the training session will attempt to assess any deficiencies. The officer will receive remedial training. The officer will be allowed to re-qualify. In the event that an officer cannot qualify, the officer will not be authorized to carry a patrol rifle for patrol duty.
6. Prior to being authorized to carry a Patrol Rifle agency personnel must be instructed on and issued copies of the department Use of Force Policy #300.01. This instruction and issuance will be documented in a Power DMS course.

E. Deployment Guidelines

1. The Patrol Rifle, department issued or individually owned, may be deployed under any of the following conditions:
2. For a perimeter/ containment situation involving a hostage and/ or Barricaded subject.
3. An “Armed Subject” call.
4. A felony or high-risk traffic stop.
5. A “Hold-up” or armed robbery call.
6. Where the officer has a reasonable expectation that there is potential for an armed subject encounter.
7. Upon request of a departmental supervisor.

F. Ammunition

1. Officers shall only carry department-approved and issued ammunition. The Tactical Bonded, 62-grain 223/5.56 mm caliber is the department's approved duty ammo.
2. The department's approved ammo may be replaced by an equivalent round when approved by a department's armorer.
3. Officers will carry at least three (3) department approved magazines when deploying the rifle. Each department issued, or privately owned rifle, must be equipped with a department-approved weapon mounted light, sling and ammo carry pouch. Officers may elect to purchase their own ammo pouch, rather than using a department issued ammo pouch, but the privately purchased ammo pouch must be approved by the firearms division.

G. Rifle Maintenance

1. Officers authorized to deploy rifles are responsible for cleaning and proper function of their assigned rifle.
2. Only a department designated armorer is authorized to repair any malfunctions or mechanical failures. Officers are not permitted to modify department issued Patrol Rifles without permission from the Chief of Police or designee.
3. All rifles are subject to inspection at any time and will be inspected by a firearms instructor or any supervisor. The rifle will also be inspected by a department armorer before being issued and/or authorized for use. Rifles found to be unsafe or defective will not be sanctioned by the department or used for qualification until repaired or replaced.
4. Any damage to the rifle or mechanical failure of any kind shall be immediately reported to a supervisor or appropriate designee and the rifle will be taken out of service until it is repaired. If left in a designated locker, the rifle will be tagged, identifying the deficiency and the bolt will be locked open and a log device put in place.
5. Failure to properly maintain an assigned Patrol Rifle may result in disciplinary action.

H. Transporting and Storage of the Rifle

1. The rifle shall be secured in a designated locked storage area when not in use.
2. The rifle shall be unloaded prior to being brought into the station. When being readied for use on patrol, the rifle should have the magazine inserted in the rifle and placed in the designated storage area in the patrol vehicle. The rifle will be unloaded and returned to the designated storage area after every shift.
3. The rifle shall be kept in the secured storage area unless:
 - a. The rifle is in for repair
 - b. The rifle is in use in the field
 - c. The rifle is being cleaned in an assigned area

- d. The rifle is being inspected by a department armorer or his/her designee
 - e. The rifle is being used in training.
4. When the rifle is in use in the field, it may be transported in a case secured in the trunk of a patrol car. The exception to the above would be situations in which a vehicle is being used to deploy officers or during an ongoing operation.
5. When carried in a vehicle, the rifle shall be in the following mode:
- a. Safety on
 - b. Bolt forward on an empty chamber
 - c. Magazine inserted into the rifle
 - d. Ejection port cover closed

I. Conditions Governing Use of Personally Owned Rifles

- 1. Optional rifles may be carried only after meeting eligibility and qualification criteria.
- 2. Optional rifles will be stored in department approved cases, in the vehicle trunk, hidden from public view, in either a soft or hard case.
- 3. The officer will provide the rifle, sling, tactical light and may provide an optional aiming sight, if approved, in addition to the rifles basic sighting system.

J. Eligibility Criteria

Officers who have completed their FTO period and desire to carry/use a personally owned rifle will complete the prescribed training and qualification course prior to receiving authorization to carry a rifle for duty use. Officers can purchase their own department approved Patrol Rifle once they have completed their probationary period.

K. Rifle Accessories and Ammunition

- 1. The rifle will be an AR-15 based system of .223 caliber/ 5.56mm, U.S. made, semiautomatic (no fully automatic or burst capability), and have a barrel length of not less than 16". The rifle may have a fixed or collapsible stock; shall have a tactical sling attached; and shall be equipped with a weapon mounted light and may be outfitted with an approved optical site such as an Eotech or Aimpoint tactical site. Internal modifications to the weapon are not permitted. External modifications will comply with this General Order and applicable federal law. Authorized brands include the following:
 - a. Arma-Lite
 - b. Bushmaster
 - c. Colt
 - d. Defense Procurement Manufacturing Services (DPMS)
 - e. Stag Manufacturing Olympic Arms
 - f. Rock River Arms
 - g. Others specifically approved by the Chief of Police

2. The following modifications/ accessories are prohibited without authorization from the Chief of Police or his/ her designee.
 - a. Silencers/suppressors
 - b. Laser sighting systems
 - c. Bipods
3. Only department-issued ammunition will be carried/ used on duty. Magazine capacity will not exceed 30 rounds. No drum style or extended round magazines are authorized.

L. Training, qualifications and Inspection

1. Prior to carrying/ using a personally owned rifle on duty, each officer will successfully complete all training and qualifications. The rifle will also be inspected by a department armorer before being authorized for use while on duty.

M. Restrictions

1. The authorization for use of personally owned rifles and accessories must be controlled and only those officers specifically designated by the Chief of Police will be allowed to deploy the patrol rifle. Selection of officers is at the sole discretion of the Chief of Police or his designee.
2. Those officers meeting the qualifications established by the Narragansett Police Department Patrol Rifle Policy may carry and use a personally owned rifle. To be approved by the Department the rifle must meet the operating safety criteria established by the department armorer.
3. Personally owned rifles used for duty purposes are subject to the following:
 - a. Inspection by the Narragansett Police Department armorer at any time.
 - b. Serial number registration with the Department armorer.
 - c. Investigative seizure.
4. The Narragansett Police Department, will reimburse the authorized officer due to loss, theft or damage to personally owned rifles or accessories that are reasonably utilized and secured in accordance with the departmental policies and procedures. Any loss, theft or damage must be immediately reported to the Chief of Police or his/her designee.
5. Any violation of this policy (including failure to qualify with the weapon) may result in the revocation of the authorization to carry/ use the personally owned rifle and/ or disciplinary action consistent with current department policy. Participation in this program is voluntary and continued participation is at the discretion of the Chief of Police.
6. School Resource Officers (SRO's) will be assigned a Sig Sauer MCX Virtus SBR (short barrel rifle) with Carrying case. The SRO's are responsible for maintenance and storage of the rifle. The SRO will properly store the rifle in an approved locked safe while on duty in the school. The rifle will be removed from the school daily and properly stored at the station while off-duty.

By order of:

Chief of Police